

ANTIETAM NATIONAL CEMETERY, HEADQUARTERS NO. 1
(Antietam National Cemetery, New Lodge)
Antietam National Cemetery
302 Shepherdstown Pike (State Route 34)
Sharpsburg
Washington County
Maryland

HABS MD-936-C
MD-936-C

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ANTIETAM NATIONAL CEMETERY, HEADQUARTERS No. 1

HABS No. MD-936-C

Location: 302 Shepherdstown Pike (State Route 34), Sharpsburg vicinity, Washington County, Maryland

Date of Construction: 1928

Builder: Bester-Long Contractor

Original Owner: U.S. War Department (1928-1933)

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (1933-present)

Present Use: Antietam National Battlefield Superintendent's Headquarters

Significance: Located within the gates of Antietam National Cemetery, Headquarters No. 1 is a one and a half story Dutch Colonial Revival style structure similar to those popular in middle class suburban neighborhoods in the early half of the twentieth century. It is built from a Office of the Quartermaster General standard plan for new National Cemetery lodges in the 1920s. National Cemeteries in Danville and City Point, Virginia—both built in 1928—and Marietta, Georgia—built in 1921—had the same floor plan and general exterior details as the Antietam building.¹ Built to replace the cemetery's original 1867 Superintendent's Lodge, the structure was intended to serve as the new work and living quarters for the superintendent.

Historian: Susan C. Hall

Project Information: Documentation of Headquarters No. 1 was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), within the Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP) of the National Park Service (Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief, HABS; Richard O'Connor, Chief, HDP) during the summer of 2009. This effort was made possible

¹ See City Point National Cemetery in Hopewell, Virginia: File 9, Box 30, Entry 25—Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File, Record Group 15—Veterans Administration, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (hereafter Entry 25, RG 15, NARA I); Danville National Cemetery in Danville, Virginia and Marietta National Cemetery in Marietta, Georgia: File 5, Box 10, Entry 25, RG 15, NARA I.

through the Sally Kress Tompkins Fellowship, an award established by HABS and the Society of Architectural Historians to recognize and encourage the historical research of emerging scholars. Susan C. Hall (University of California, Riverside), 2009 Sally Kress Tompkins Fellow, produced historical reports focusing on several War Department era structures at Antietam National Battlefield and Antietam National Cemetery. Assistance was provided by many staff members at Antietam National Battlefield, particularly Jane Custer (Chief, Cultural Resources) and Keven Walker (Cultural Resource Specialist). Lisa P. Davidson, HABS historian and Chair of the Sally Kress Tompkins Fellowship committee, served as project leader. Large-format photography was undertaken by HABS photographer Renee Bieretz.

I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: 1927-1928
2. Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General
3. Original Owner: War Department, 1928 – 1933
4. Subsequent Owner: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1933 – present
5. Contractor: Bester-Long Contractor, Hagerstown, Maryland
6. Original plans and Construction: Headquarters No. 1 is an example of a standard plan developed by the War Department for the National Cemetery System in the 1920s and early 30s. Similar headquarters buildings can be found at National Cemeteries in Marietta, Georgia, City Point in Hopewell, Virginia, and Danville, Virginia. The initial contract for the Headquarters was signed on October 12, 1927 and construction began October 17. The Lodge's was completed on April 5, 1928 at a total cost of \$10,288.²

² Quartermaster maintenance report (13 April 1928), File Folder 0-31 - Antietam National Cemetery, Box 2699, Entry 7 – Central Classified File, 1933-1949, RG 79 – Records of the National Park Service, National Archives II, College Park (hereafter Box 2699, Entry 7, RG 79, NARA II); Letter, A. Banks Thomas to the Quartermaster General (1 September 1928), File 624—Antietam National Cemetery – Lodge – Bester-Long Co., Box 57, Entry 1891—General Correspondence, Geographic File 1922-1935, Record Group 92—Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General (hereafter Entry 1891, RG 92), NARA II. See also: Letter, Office Quartermaster Supply Officer to the Quartermaster General (19 July 1928); Letter, from H.L. Ward (16 April 1928); Letter, from H.L. Ward (5 April 1928); Letter, H.L. Ward to Assistant to the Quartermaster General, Subject: Site of new lodge (1 June 1927). All letters located in File 624, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

Note: It should be noted that the files from Record Group 92 are retrievable from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and College Park, MD. In the Downtown branch (NARA I), they prefer that researchers request

7. Alterations and additions: Historic photographs provide the best evidence indicating alterations and additions to Headquarters No. 1. The photographs indicate that sometime after 1936, the siding of the Headquarters was altered from its original wood and stucco to asbestos shingles. One black and white, undated photo taken of the northwest elevation reveals that the front porch of the headquarters was enclosed in 1938.³ The date of the enclosure's removal is unknown. In 1979, a porch cover was constructed for the south elevation entrance.⁴

B. Historical Context:

Burying the Dead – The Battle of Antietam and Antietam National Cemetery

Headquarters No. 1 was constructed at Antietam National Cemetery in 1928 under the guidance of the War Department and the Office of the Quartermaster General. It was built to replace the original Keeper's Lodge, which had been constructed and completed by the National Cemetery's dedication in 1867. The National Cemetery was created in order to properly inter those Union soldiers who had died at the Battle of Antietam and other nearby battles such as Harper's Ferry, South Mountain, and Crampton's Gap. The Battle of Antietam, which occurred on September 17, 1862, marked the culminating engagement in Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign and his first invasion of Union territory. On the 18th, General George B. McClellan failed to attack Lee's wounded army and instead, allowed the Confederate troops to retreat across the Potomac River under the cover of night. As Lee returned to Virginia, he left behind an enormous number of dead, wounded, and missing. Both Union and Confederate armies suffered enormously at the Battle of Antietam. It was and is the single bloodiest day in American history, leading to more than 23,000 Union and Confederate casualties. This number represents more casualties than all of those from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Spanish American War, and Indian Wars of the nineteenth century combined.⁵

files using the Record Group, Entry number, and (at times) file number. For Entry 89, specific box numbers are not generally requested by the researcher but rather filled in by the staff members on duty based on the file number entered. Instead, file numbers are pulled based on indexes from Entries 84. In the College Park branch (NARA II), they prefer that researchers request files using the Record Group, Box number, and (at times) Entry number. Those files in Entry 1891, RG 92 do require box numbers.

³ The June 30, 1938 Quarterly Report states that "Porch on Quarters Screened. Storm enclosure built for front door of quarters." "Quarterly Report of the Antietam National Cemetery for the period ended June 30, 1938," File No. 207, Box 2699, Entry 7, RG 79, NARA II. Several years worth of reports are available in Box 2699. Photographic evidence suggests that the screened in porch was added after the 1930s PWA work on the cemetery grounds. Photograph, "national cem – superintendents quarters, n.d.," *Administrative Work* notebook, WPA photograph collection, Antietam National Battlefield Library, Sharpsburg, MD

⁴ WPA project no. 3583 photographs from 1936 show the absence of a south elevation porch roof and the second floor clad in most likely wood clapboard, stucco tiles, and white trimmed windows. Photographs, *Administrative Work* notebook, WPA photograph collection, Antietam National Battlefield Library, Sharpsburg, MD Charles W. Snell and Sharon A. Brown, *Antietam National Battlefield and National Cemetery: an Administrative History* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 1986), 484.

⁵ James McPherson, *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), 3.

The soldiers who lay dead and dying on the fields of Sharpsburg were the physical reminders of the horrors of war, and Sharpsburg's civilians—along with the Union details who remained behind—were forced to deal with this grisly reality. Bodies were gathered and graves dug for both Union and Confederate dead.⁶ The means by which the Union army dealt with the Antietam dead left much to be desired, and it was not long before the local residents pushed for the removal of the dead from their farm lands.⁷ On a much larger scale, others campaigned for the proper burial of all the Civil War dead. While concerned for the local farmers, these advocates were also interested in properly commemorating the sacrifice and heroism of the fallen soldiers. Walt Whitman, an avid supporter of establishing a national cemetery system explained that the federal government had “a stewardship, the account of which must be rendered to the spirit of humanity and Christian patriotism, to the friends of republican liberty and of human freedom and progress throughout the world, to the free people of the North, whose dearest sons have been sacrificed...”⁸ It was the *obligation* of the living to properly inter the dead, because they had paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of citizenship and duty.⁹

In 1864, State Senator Lewis P. Firey introduced a resolution to the Maryland Senate for the formation of a joint committee which would purchase a portion of the Antietam Battlefield for the purpose of establishing a State and National cemetery. His desire was to provide the dead with “a decent burial” so that their “memories [could] be embalmed in some suitable memorial.”¹⁰ A year later, four Marylanders and “one Trustee from each of the other States” who lost soldiers at the battle were appointed to the cemetery Board.¹¹ This Board of Trustees was the primary caretaker of Antietam National Cemetery until 1877, when financial burdens led the site to be transferred to the federal government under the stewardship of the War Department.

By this point in time, the cemetery was already fairly established and in some respects, the War Department needed to change little to maintain the property as it saw fit. However, its incorporation into the National Cemetery System did mark a number of important changes for the site. Most importantly, the War Department pushed to incorporate the Cemetery into their already well-established bureaucratic system. Beginning in 1877, superintendents and visiting

⁶ Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008), 69; Stephen W. Sears, *Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1983), 355.

⁷ Robinson & Associates, Inc., *Antietam National Cemetery Lodge: Physical History and Condition Assessment, Final Submission*, (Washington, D.C.: architrave p.c. architects, 5 March 2003), 20.

⁸ Faust, 229.

⁹ Faust, 211, 218.

¹⁰ Board of Trustees of Antietam National Cemetery, *History of Antietam National Cemetery* (Baltimore, Maryland: John W. Woods, Steam Printer, 1869), 7.

¹¹ Snell, 2-3.

inspectors wrote regular reports on the Cemetery and its physical condition. These reports emphasized the desire to maintain order in the Cemetery.

Constructing Headquarters No. 1 – Serving the Dead and the Living in the Twentieth Century

The Lodge's dual business and residential purpose proved to be a challenge to Cemetery superintendents who wanted to keep some semblance of domesticity while providing access to the public. As early as 1906 Superintendent J.V. Davis had complained that the original Lodge at Antietam National Cemetery was too small, impractical, and public for the comfortable living of a modern moral family.¹² Headquarters No. 1 was intended to serve the same dual function as the original Lodge which, by 1927, was converted into a public comfort station. First and foremost, Headquarters No. 1 functioned as living quarters for the cemetery's Superintendent and his family, who was charged with keeping watch over the fallen soldiers and properly maintaining the grounds of the cemetery. Secondly, the front office functioned as the Superintendent's work space, where he greeted the public. In doing so, the Headquarters was a welcoming space for those who came to the cemetery to mourn, honor, and remember the Civil War dead.

The new structure was located west of the original Keeper's Lodge, bordering the Cemetery's stone wall along the Shepherdstown Pike near the northwest corner of the enclosed property. A letter dated May 18, 1927 explained that "it is desired that a suitable site for [the proposed new lodge] location on the cemetery reservation be selected, without tearing down the old lodge."¹³ As a result, the new structure could not obtain primary prominence next to the main entrance gates. However, the front porch—accessible through a small wrought iron gate and cement walk—is also visible from the Pike and reiterates its accessibility to the public.

Despite its similar functionality and visibility outside of the property's fence, the new structure reflected the War Department's continuous effort to promote efficient cemetery operations. Antietam's new lodge was modest in scale, domestic in form, and contrasted greatly with the miniature Gothic castle to its east. In 1871, Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs designed a Second Empire style lodge as a standard plan for the National Cemeteries. This tradition of standard lodge plans continued in the 1920s with the Dutch Colonial Revival design subsequently used at Antietam National Cemetery. Other versions of this lodge design were built for national cemeteries in Marietta, Georgia, and Danville and City Point, Virginia, and perhaps others.¹⁴ Although slightly different in architectural design and layout, Building and

¹² Letter, J.V. Davis to the Depot Quartermaster, Washington, D.C. (22 October 1906), File No. 213318, Entry 89, RG 92, NARA I.

¹³ Letter, K.J. Hampton to Quartermaster Supply Officer, Re: Lodge for Antietam National Cemetery (18 May 1927), File 624 – Antietam Nat'l Cem., Subject: Lodge-Bester-Long Co., Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

¹⁴ Buildings and Utilities reports from the Office of the Quartermaster General indicate that the Dutch Colonial standard plan was extremely popular in the 1920s and 1930s. While the floor plans appear to be mostly the same, constructors and designers took liberties in dormer feature and wall cladding. Jefferson Barracks's lodge built in 1934, for instance, has the same floor plan as Antietam's 1928 Lodge. However, its walls were made of brick and

Utilities reports from throughout the National Cemetery System indicate a small resurgence in Lodge construction focusing on these modest structures with gambrel roofs and dormers.¹⁵ The continued use of standardized plans reiterates the System's efforts to homogenize the look and function of each cemetery even with a shift to a domestic appearance instead of a diminutive institutional building.¹⁶ This newer standard plan structure also differed from Meigs' earlier Second Empire design by turning to the American past for inspiration rather than contemporary late nineteenth century French architecture.

The War Department maintained tight control over the new Lodge's construction. Federal oversight was best reflected in the relationship between the military engineers and the building contractor, Bester-Long of Hagerstown, Maryland. In 1927, Civil Engineer E.G. Mitchell was ordered to Antietam National Cemetery "for the purpose of inspection in connection with the construction of [the] new lodge at this place."¹⁷ The War Department thought it necessary for Mitchell to spend at least two days a week inspecting the progress of its construction. However, when the building was completed in April 1928 complaints between Bester-Long and Mitchell arose. According to the contract, the Dutch Colonial structure was to be completed January 26, 1928. However, winter weather delays prevented the exterior stucco work from being applied in a timely fashion. Gwynne Conrad in the Office of the Quartermaster General complained that "for the last month previous to completing the building, [the] contractor had an average of only four men at work, which does not indicate he was making a special effort to complete the work, even though he already had exceeded the time limit stated in his contract."¹⁸ As a result of the delayed completion date, the government deducted \$376.63 from Bester-Long's final payment for fines and inspection charges.¹⁹

its gabled windows were two pairs of windows rather than one set. See Jefferson Barracks: File 1, Box 22, Entry 25, RG 15, NARA I; Danville, Virginia and Marietta Georgia: File 5, Box 22, Entry 25, RG 15, NARA I.

¹⁵ Wilmington National Cemetery, File 1, Box 39, Entry 25, RG 15, NARA I; Salisbury National Cemetery, File 7, Box 34, Entry 25, RG 15, NARA I.

¹⁶ Catherine Zipf, "Marking Union Victory in the South: the Construction of the National Cemetery System" in *Monuments to the Lost Cause: Women, Art, and the Landscapes of Southern Memory*, Cynthia Mills and Pamela H. Simpson eds. (Knoxville, Tennessee: The University of Tennessee Press, 2003), 32.

¹⁷ Letter, H.L. Ward to the Quartermaster General, Re: Authority to issue travel order (3 November 1927), File 333.1 – Antietam, 1924/1928 Compiled, Box 56, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

¹⁸ "The only delay which could in any way be charged to this office was the delay caused by freezing weather during January and February when outside stucco work could not be done without inclosing the building with canvas and allowing heat from inside to take the frost out of walls. This method was suggested to the contractor but he chose to delay for warmer weather." Letter, Gwynne Conrad to Office Quartermaster Supply Officer (19 July 1928), File 624 – Antietam Nat'l Cem., Subject: Lodge – Bester-Long Co., Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II. See also: Letter, W.S. Dewhirst, Assistant Chief of Division to Chief of Finance, War Department (28 June 1928), File 624 – Antietam Nat'l Cem., Subject: Lodge – Bester-Long Co., Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

¹⁹ Letter, A. Banks Thomas to the Quartermaster General (1 September 1929), File 624 – Antietam Nat'l Cem., Subject: Lodge – Bester-Long Co., Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

In April, H.L. Ward determined that the delay in construction and its completion had “caused the Government to suffer no loss or inconvenience by reason of the delay, with the exception of cost of inspection.”²⁰ Nonetheless, by May, the issue had not been dropped, and Ward acknowledged the complexity of War Department protocols regarding the building under contract.²¹ Mr. Bester placed blame specifically on Mitchell. He argued:

The proposal submitted the allotted time for the completion of the Lodge was 90 days. The nature of the construction of the house, however being hallow tile, stucco exterior over the entire building, concrete porches, pavements, etc.—required suitable weather for its proper construction and to meet the approval of the Engineer in Charge, Mr. E.G. Mitchell. He states that he remarked several times to the Engineer that he wanted to complete the house in the time specified, but the Engineer said that weather conditions “must be considered” and inferred that there would be no deduction made as a penalty for overtime in completing the work. I am advised that the contract specifically states that overtime payment shall not be deducted if the Government has not been caused any loss – and in this instance the Lodge was completed the first part of April and there is no occupant in it yet – Mr. Alexander, the Acting Superintendent, occupying his own residence which he provides for.²²

The contractors felt the whole matter rather unjust and even enlisted the help of their Congressman, the Honorable F.N. Zihlman. They appealed for a fair decision to be made.²³

Despite the Congressman’s involvement, Mitchell did not relent. He argued that his conversation with the contractors was specifically in regards to placing the concrete and stucco on the walls without protection from the freezing weather. There was no reason, he claimed, based on their conversation, to conclude that a deduction would not be made if the company failed to complete the contract on time. Therefore, fines were accrued, because Bester-Long failed to follow War Department protocol by neither giving “any notice of unavoidable delays, as provided for in Article 9 of the contract, nor applied for any extension of time.” Bester-Long and Congressman Zihlman were informed that “there is neither any provision of such contract, nor any law, under which this office could refund the amount of liquidated damages deducted from the payment under such contract.”²⁴

²⁰ Statement, H.L. Ward (16 April 1928), File 624, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

²¹ Letter, H.L. Ward to Office Quartermaster Supply Officer (10 May 1928), File 624, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

²² Letter, F.N. Zihlman to Quartermaster General, War Department (27 April 1928), File 624, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

²³ Letter, Henry A. Best, Jr. of Bester-Long Company to Office of the Comptroller (2 May 1928), File 624, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

²⁴ Letter, B.F. Cheatham to Honorable F.N. Zihlman, House of Representatives (22 May 1928), File 624, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

Regardless of this conclusion, W.S. Dewhirst, Chief of Finance for the War Department, set out to discover if, in fact, the engineer had made such a statement authorizing the cessation of work.²⁵ Little could be confirmed, because the communication was verbal rather than written. Written documentation does not indicate whether or not the final outcome was in Bester-Long's favor. Nonetheless, shortly after Headquarters No. 1 was completed, its construction methods were put under further scrutiny by the War Department. Even though the contractors had refrained from stuccoing the exterior walls in winter, the Cemetery's reports—thoroughly conducted quarterly for the War Department—indicated that the lodge still had interior and exterior structural problems. As early as 1930, the reports indicate that repair work was necessary to stabilize the porch column.²⁶ Shortly thereafter, the Superintendent reported that the basement walls were “leaking very badly.” In order to eradicate this problem, he suggested that concrete walls to be poured on the outside of the present stone wall from the basement to six inches above ground.²⁷

Looking Beyond the Cemetery Walls – Contextualizing Headquarters No. 1 in the Inter-War Years

When Headquarters No. 1 was built in 1928, it was intended to be suited for domestic comforts of the modern American family—comforts that were difficult to obtain in the old Lodge. The superintendents' family would live with the modern amenities expected of homes in the early twentieth century, including a modern kitchen, more spacious rooms, and a bathroom on the second floor. These interior amenities of the new structure reflected the standards of an ever-growing middle class. However, these amenities, though desired by the Cemetery superintendent, were more difficult to come by in a rural setting such as Sharpsburg, Maryland. In 1929, Superintendent Dupree requested permission to install a telephone in the lodge at his own expense. Four years later, inspectors reported no clear indication that a phone had yet been installed.²⁸ Only two years after the construction of the new building, the well water that serviced both the new Lodge and the comfort station was going dry. As a result, it was “necessary to close the public toilet and use what little water is obtainable for flushing toilet in the Superintendent's quarters.”²⁹ Superintendent Placide Rodriguez also complained that “my

²⁵ Letter, W.S. Dewhirst to Chief of Finance, War Department (28 June 1928), File 624, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

²⁶ Condition Report, “Designation of Cemetery, Antietam – MD” (n.d.), File Folder 0-31 - Antietam National Cemetery, Box 2699, Entry 7, RG 79, NARA II.

²⁷ “Quarterly Report of the Antietam (Sharpsburg, MD) National Cemetery for the period ended December 31, 1932,” File 600.912 – Antietam Natl Cem., Box 56, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

²⁸ Letter, Gwynne Conrad to Quartermaster General (30 October 1929), File 671 – Antietam, Subject: 1927-1931 Compiled, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II. While the Park's Administrative history states that the phone was placed in the office of the new lodge, a 1933 Quarterly Report claims that a telephone had still not been installed in Quarters 1. Report, October 10th 1933 visit to Antietam National Cemetery – Report by James R. McConaghie to the Director, Office of National Parks (20 October 1933), File No. c 0-31, Part I. Antietam National Cemetery General (from August 12, 1933 – December 12, 1935), Box 2699, Entry 7, RG 79, NARA II.

family and I must have water that is fit to drink and for washing clothes.”³⁰ Despite these setbacks, both the War Department and the superintendents showed a desire to maintain the new Lodge as a domestic structure representative of a modern middle-class family. Rather than standing out with its architectural detailing and small but imposing presence on a rural landscape, the Dutch Colonial was built specifically to “blend in.” Although actually located in the rural enclave of Washington County, Maryland, the Dutch Colonial structure highly resembled the Colonial Revival homes being built in the growing suburban developments of New England, the mid-Atlantic, and the Midwest.

Ironically, a number of these planned suburban neighborhoods developed out of the rural and lawn cemetery movements—which greatly impacted the establishment and early development of Antietam’s National Cemetery, as well.³¹ Both the cemeteries and suburban homes promoted well-maintained landscaping to contrast the dirty, chaotic environment of the city. Set back from the street, the Antietam Cemetery was concerned with maintaining the Headquarters’ yard, as well. A report announced that “the grounds surrounding the new lodge at the Antietam National Cemetery will require considerable attention this year to restore the lawn...Shrubs should be planted between the new walk and the lodge.”³² In 1932, a concrete walkway was poured between the new Lodge and the Mule Barn, which coincided with the Superintendent’s desire to store his automobile in the “tool house.”³³

Along with supporting the modern, middle class suburban ideals that took hold in the early twentieth century, the architectural style of Headquarters No. 1 also promoted an image of patriotism and nationalism. In his article, “The American Colonial Revival in the 1930s,” David Gebhard argues that while the houses were constructed with modern materials, they reflected the architectural styles of seventeenth and eighteenth century America. In doing so, the colonial revival homes had suggestive powers. They remind people of “past values—in this case, of a simpler, puritanical, family-oriented world of manageable scale.”³⁴ In addition, William Rhoads states that “much of Colonial architecture’s popular appeal was based on patriotic sentiment.”³⁵

²⁹ Letter, Chas. G. Mortimer to The Quartermaster General, Re: Drilling Well at Antietam National Cemetery (6 August 1929), File 671, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

³⁰ Letter, Placide Rodriguez to Quartermaster, Third Corps Area (20 August 1930), File Folder – History of Water Supply, Box – Antietam National Cemetery, Antietam National Battlefield Library, Sharpsburg, MD

³¹ Jackson, 55.

³² Letter, H.L. Ward to The Quartermaster General, Re: Improvements to grounds, Antietam National Cemetery (4 April 1928), File 618.32 – Antietam National Cem., Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

³³ Snell, 65. “Quarterly Report of the Antietam National Cemetery for the period ended June 30th, 1932,” File 600.912 – Antietam Nat’l Cem., Box 56, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

³⁴ David Gebhard, “The American Colonial Revival in the 1930s,” *Winterthur Portfolio* 22, no. 2/3 (Summer - Autumn, 1987): 146.

³⁵ William Rhoads, “The Colonial Revival and American Nationalism,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 35, no. 4 (December 1976): 239.

People did not subscribe to the colonial revival because of its architectural style but rather for what that architecture was associated with: great [white] men and great events in American history. Particularly after World War One, architects showed nationalistic fervor—and disgust with Europe—through a resurgence of colonial revival buildings that lauded the distinct architectural styles of colonial America: Georgian, Dutch, English, etc.³⁶ Expressed through its architectural design, these values reinforced the Cemetery's goals to promote patriotism and nationalism by honoring fallen soldiers who had fought and died to preserve the Union.

Although Headquarters No. 1 resembled the domestic units that supported the romanticized idealization of the colonial past, there were several distinctions that set it apart from those homes found in developing suburbs. As a federal structure on national cemetery property, it served the American people. In addition, as on-site federal employees, the superintendents and their family were merely residents of the home rather than the owners. Most importantly, the Headquarters combined work and living space in a manner perhaps similar to an earlier, rural model of living.

Almost immediately after its construction, the private, domestic comforts of the Cemetery Superintendent and his family were called in to question by the instability of federal employment. The romanticized vision of America's past—visible in the Dutch Colonial revival architecture—was being threatened by economic crisis and a desire to cut costs. In 1929, the Washington Depot of the Office of the Quartermaster General discussed consolidating the Superintendent's position of the National Cemetery with the Superintendent position of Antietam Battlefield.³⁷ By doing so, the division could save money with the employment of only one federal worker rather than two. However, the War Department issued the following memo to help quell concerns:

The proposition of the Washington Depot, as I understand it, is not to fill the existing vacancy in the position of superintendent of the Antietam National Cemetery, and to have the Superintendent of the Antietam Battlefield as superintendent of both places, the Battlefield superintendent to reside in the cemetery lodge. If the Battlefield superintendent resides in the cemetery lodge, his pay is automatically increased by \$180 value of such quarters as heretofore fixed by his salary rate. There is no authority of law for this...³⁸

Although the War Department did not consolidate the two superintendent positions, the nation's growing financial crisis of the 1930s did impact the stability of domestic living at Headquarters No. 1.

³⁶ Rhoads, 247.

³⁷ Letter, Chairman Frederick Zihlman to the Quartermaster General (13 December 1929), File 231.4 Antietam, Subject: Compiled 1925-1935, Box 56, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

³⁸ War Department Memorandum (23 September 1929), File 231.4 Antietam, Subject: Compiled 1925-1935, Box 56, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

After the War Department – Continuity and Change at Headquarters No. 1

In early 1933, during the midst of the Great Depression, Cemetery Superintendent Clarence Nett wrote to the Quartermaster General requesting permission to be relocated to another cemetery. Rumors were circulating that Antietam would be transferred to the Department of the Interior and current employees would lose their positions.³⁹ Nett did not lose his job security or his home—at least for a couple of years. Instead, he helped the Antietam National Cemetery transition to the National Park Service.

Despite the change in stewardship, the Headquarters and Cemetery in general functioned much in the same manner as it had under the War Department. Quarterly Reports issued under the NPS mentioned cracks on the front walk and porch. In 1936, the NPS's Six Year Plan included \$850 to repair and repaint the Lodge in the 1938 fiscal year.⁴⁰ The front porch of the Headquarters was screened in 1938, but it was not until June of 1941 that the interior and exterior walls were finally painted.⁴¹ In 1965, the upstairs bathroom was remodeled and an additional toilet facility installed downstairs.⁴² In 1979, a roof was added to the rear porch around which time the kitchen was remodeled.

In 1942, the Cemetery Superintendent's position *was* consolidated with the Superintendent of the Antietam National Battlefield.⁴³ Although the structure continued to function as the Superintendent's living quarters, the consolidation altered the structure's original function by pulling attention away from the Cemetery right outside its walls. In the early 1980s, Virgil G. Leimer was the last Superintendent to make Headquarters No. 1 his official residence.⁴⁴ Since then, the structure has served primarily as park headquarters for the Battlefield and Cemetery. Despite the lack of live-in residents, the architectural integrity of the building has changed little over the last few decades. Domestic features—such as the remodeled kitchen and bathroom—inside the building are physical reminders of its original use.⁴⁵

Today, despite the structure's historically-inspired architecture and eighty year history, Headquarters No. 1 is not viewed as part of the Cemetery's historic landscape in the same way as

³⁹ Snell, 66.

⁴⁰ "Antietam National Battlefield Site – Program of Employment Stabilization Projects – Six Year Program," File No. 600-02, Part I, Box 2604, Entry 7, RG 79, NARA II.

⁴¹ "Quarterly Report of the Antietam National Cemetery for the period ended June 30, 1938," File No. 207, Box 2699, Entry 7, RG 79, NARA II; Snell, 225.

⁴² Snell, 344.

⁴³ Snell, 554.

⁴⁴ John Howard, Antietam Superintendent, informal meeting with Historian, 15 July 2009.

⁴⁵ Snell, 484.

its predecessor. In 1967, Patricia Heinzelman explained that “a later house was added for the Superintendent of the park about 1930 and is unhistoric [sic] to the park and cemetery.”⁴⁶ Heinzelman’s statement was most likely influenced by the Park’s Master Plan that considered removing the Headquarters residence and garage because “they are intrusions on scene.”⁴⁷ While other Cemetery structures such as the Lodge and Rostrum can be found on postcards and in newspaper articles, Headquarters No. 1 remains absent from these types of ephemeral keepsakes. However, like earlier War Department additions to the cemetery—most notably the 1879 Rostrum—Headquarters No. 1 served an important function for the National Cemetery. Its “modern” design and construction should not be overlooked as ahistorical, because its eighty year history can help shed much light on story of the Cemetery in the early twentieth century.

II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Headquarters No. 1 is a one and a half story Dutch Colonial Revival style structure similar to those popular in middle class suburban neighborhoods in the early half of the twentieth century.⁴⁸ Its design reflected a shift to contemporary suburban forms for National Cemetery lodges. Keeping with traditions of efficiency within the National Cemetery system, Headquarters No. 1 was built using standard plans. National Cemeteries in Danville and City Point, Virginia—both built in 1928—and Marietta, Georgia—built in 1921—had the same floor plan and general exterior details as the Antietam building.⁴⁹

2. Condition of fabric: Good. Headquarters No. 1 has some exterior problems with peeling on the asbestos shingles and a cracked column on the porch. Research indicates that cracks in the columns have been a problem since shortly after its construction.⁵⁰

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Headquarters No. 1 is 35 feet, 0 inches in length, 32 feet, 10 inches in width, and approximately 30 feet, 0 inches in height (from the grade to top of the roof).⁵¹

⁴⁶ Patricia Hienzelman, “Classified Structure Field Inventory Report” (17 May 1976), File Folder – Antietam National Cemetery, Box – Antietam National Cemetery, Antietam National Battlefield Library, Sharpsburg, MD

⁴⁷ Snell, 371.

⁴⁸ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 322.

⁴⁹ See City Point National Cemetery in Hopewell, Virginia: File 9, Box 30, Entry 25, RG 15, NARA I; Danville National Cemetery in Danville, Virginia and Marietta National Cemetery in Marietta, Georgia: File 5, Box 10, Entry 25, RG 15, NARA I.

⁵⁰ Condition Report, “Designation of Cemetery, Antietam – MD” indicates that as early as October 1930, repairs were being made to the “concrete pillars and steps of lodge.” Condition Report, “Designation of Cemetery, Antietam – MD”

2. Foundations: This structure has a rubble stone foundation at grade level and then an approximately 2 ½ foot raised masonry basement covered with brown painted stucco.
3. Walls: Smooth, white stucco comprises the exterior walls of the first floor elevation and white asbestos shingles can be found in the gable ends of the gambrel roof.
4. Structural system, framing: The structure is a combination of structural clay tile and a wood frame roof.⁵²
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Headquarters No. 1 has four exterior doorways. Two doors are located at the first floor of the north elevation. The other two are located in the southwest corner of the south elevation at the basement and first floor. The typical door is brown painted wood with nine rectangular lights on the top half and two horizontal, recessed panels on the lower half. The screen doors are white metal with two large lights. The basement door on the south elevation has wire mesh over the rectangular lights, and its white screen door is painted wood with six rectangular lights over a single recessed horizontal panel.
 - b. Windows: The typical basement window on Headquarters No. 1 is a horizontal wood frame hopper with three vertical lights and a cement sill. They are inset several inches into the cement and covered by a wood framed screen. The typical window on the first and second levels is a rectangular nine-over-two double-hung wood sash set directly into the wall with a shallow reveal. A pair of narrow six-over-six wood sash windows is located on the east elevation at the first floor, flanking either side of fireplace. A similar window is located in the center of the first floor west elevation, and a pair of shorter, six-over-two wood sash windows is located in the southwest corner. A single half circled louvered opening is located at attic level on the gable ends of the gambrel roof. All of the exterior windows on the first and second level covered by metal frame storm windows which were added in 1978.⁵³
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, Covering: The structure has a side gambrel roof with composite shingles.

⁵¹ Condition Report, Building 1A – “Lodge” (13 April 1928), File Folder 0-31 - Antietam National Cemetery, Box 2699, Entry 7, RG 79, NARA II.

⁵² A report on Danville National Cemetery’s Superintendent Lodge, built the same year as Antietam, indicates that the building’s interior walls are made of brick. At this point in time, there is no evidence to suggest this is the case at Antietam, as well. Danville, Virginia: File 5, Box 10, Entry 25, RG 15, NARA I.

⁵³ Snell, 473.

b. Eaves/Drainage: The roof has box eaves with four decorative brackets on the north elevation. Pent eaves are located on the gable ends of the roof. A hanging gutter runs the length of the eaves and the downspouts are located on all four corners of the house.

c. Dormers: The front and rear gambrel slopes of the roof each have a shed roof dormer with asbestos shingles and a pair of six-over-six double-hung windows set at wall level with dark brown wood frames.

7. Porches, stoops: Headquarters No. 1 has two porches. The north elevation porch covers 2/3 of the main elevation inset into the northeast corner of the structure. It is accessed via six cement steps flanked by low walls. It is supported by three square columns—comprised of stone rubble and covered in stucco—and has simple square balusters.

The south elevation exterior porch covers 1/3 of the facade. It was originally a back stoop with a low L-shaped stucco wall. The shed roof was added in 1979.⁵⁴ It is supported by two square wood columns standing on simple plinths. One column rests on top of a square masonry base at the base of the stairs. The straight run cement stairs are parallel to the south elevation and have a metal railing.

8. Chimneys: The building has an interior end chimney with brick chimney top located on the northeast corner of the east elevation. Photo documentation indicates that an additional chimney used to be located near the southwest corner of the building, above the kitchen.⁵⁵

9. Other features: Two lightening rods are located at the ridge of the roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Headquarters No. 1 is two rooms wide and two rooms deep with a stair tucked between the rooms on the west side. On the first floor one enters directly into the northeast room from the north elevation porch, originally used as a living room. This space is now used as a reception area and office. To the west is an office, which was also directly accessible from a side door on the north elevation porch and maintains its use today. Located to the rear of the living room is the former dining room which now serves as the copy and supply room. Off of the west wall of the dining room is a door that leads to the kitchen, occupying the southwest corner of the plan. Although the room maintains its function as a kitchen, the space has seen many alterations since 1928.

The second floor of the Headquarters No. 1 is accessed from a stairway rising from the west side of the living room. There is a stair hall from which all three bedrooms (now

⁵⁴ Snell, 484.

⁵⁵ Photograph, "Foreman Baker pruning trees affected with 'Maple Wilt,' " *Administrative Work* notebook, WPA photograph collection, Antietam National Battlefield Library, Sharpsburg, MD

serving as offices) and a bathroom are accessible. Two bedrooms are arranged at the north side of the structure, another at the southeast corner. The bathroom, original to the house though its interior has been altered, is located across from this third bedroom in the southwest corner.

The basement is accessed from the kitchen or directly from the exterior and is comprised of two main rooms. The stairs lead into a large open space used for storage and mechanical systems. In the northwest corner of the basement is a smaller room that now serves as additional storage.

2. Stairways: The main stairs of the house run from the first to second floor of Headquarters No. 1. They are dog leg wood stairs with a half-pace landing and a carpet runner. This stair has a wall hung wood railing on the first run and a railing and balustrade composed of heavy squared piers and simple square columns on the second run. There is a built-in shelf at the landing. The second floor has ceiling hatch access to the attic, presumably reachable via a ladder. The basement stairs are straight-run made of white painted wood and three metal railings for support.

3. Flooring: The first floor has narrow tongue and groove wood floors covered in carpet in the office, living room, and dining room. The kitchen floor is covered with vinyl tile. The second floor has exposed narrow tongue and groove wood floors in the bedrooms and carpet covered wood flooring in the hallway. The bathroom floor is covered with three-inch-square cream colored ceramic tiles. The basement floor is comprised of poured concrete.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The living room and office on the first floor have wood paneled walls, while the dining room and kitchen have a chair railing with a wood-paneled wainscot and white plastered walls.⁵⁶ A thin, wood picture rail runs the length of the dining room approximately eighteen inches below the ceiling. The kitchen has a similar feature, but it is just barely visible below a drop ceiling. The front office has a similar drop ceiling while the living room and dining room have plaster ceilings. The second floor hallway and bedrooms have white plastered walls, a wide wood baseboard, and plaster ceilings. The bathroom has three-inch-square tan ceramic tiles. The tile covers approximately the bottom one-third of the walls except for the shower where the tile reaches to the ceiling. White plaster covers the rest of the walls and the ceiling. The basement walls are composed of exposed stone rubble filled with cement mortar. According to Quartermaster records, the rubble was reused from the Lodge annex, an

⁵⁶ Physical evidence on the north wall of the Dining Room indicate that there was wallpaper on the walls at some point in the past. Photograph documentation supports this evidence. As late as 1987, there was wallpaper on the Quarters walls. Photograph, "9/87 Quarters #1," Quarters 1 photo collection, Cultural Resources Department, Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, MD

outbuilding located to the east of Headquarters No. 1 until it was torn down in 1928.⁵⁷
The ceiling is exposed floor beams located underneath the first floor.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The typical interior door is solid wood with five recessed horizontal panels. The first floor doors are dark wood with a thin, dark wood frame with simple beaded lines. The living room has a single, dark wood bi-fold door with a louvered top and a single panel bottom located to the left of the stairs. The second floor doors have wide, flat, white wood painted frames. Two small closets are located on the second floor in the hallway and southeast bedroom; their five-paneled doors mimic the larger ones but are squatter and have a wider doorframe.

b. Windows: On the first floor all of the windows are stained medium brown and framed with a thin, wood frame with two simple beaded lines. On the second floor they are painted white and have a wider, flatter, white wood frame. The typical hopper window in the basement is painted white and set in a natural wood frame with plastic sheeting over it. Some of the windows have had panes removed for mechanical functions such as heating and air conditioning pipes and vents.

6. Decorative features and trim:

a. The radiators in the non-kitchen spaces on the first floor are enclosed in built-in radiator covers composed of a smooth finished light wood top with rounded edges and a metallic grille.

b. The east wall of the living room has a brick fireplace with a wood trimmed brick hearth, wood mantle, and wood paneled chimney breast. The fireplace itself has been closed off.

7. Hardware: Headquarters No. 1 has its original doorbell, as well as a number of original cylindrical keyhole doorknobs and full-surface hinges on its interior doors.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The structure was originally constructed with a radiant heating system, of which many of the radiators are still in place. Today, Headquarters No. 1 has been converted to a modern HVAC system with additional ducts and vents.

b. Lighting: The structure was fitted for electricity at its construction. An original light fixture with cast iron and brown marble glass is located to the left of the front door. Today, most rooms have a ceiling fan with light fixtures.

⁵⁷ "It is recommended that the old stone outbuilding (for which there will be no necessity) be removed and the old stone utilized in construction of basement walls of new lodge." Letter, H.L. Ward to Quartermaster General, Re: Site of new lodge (1 June 1927), File 624, Box 57, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II.

c. Plumbing: The structure was built with a modern bathroom and kitchen in place. Both the bathroom and kitchen maintain their use today, but the original fixtures have been replaced.

D. Site:

1. General Character: Headquarters No. 1 is located along the north gate of the Antietam National Cemetery, facing Shepherdstown Pike. Located near the northwest corner of cemetery, the building is flanked by the cemetery stable/carriage house to the southwest and the original cemetery Lodge to the east.

2. Walkways and Hardscape Features: There is an entrance gate and cement walkway leading up to the north elevation of Headquarters No. 1 from Shepherdstown Pike. There is also a rear walkway leading to a small parking lot and the cemetery stable/carriage house on the south side.⁵⁸ Another sidewalk leading from the north elevation of the building to the west elevation of the old Lodge has since been removed.⁵⁹

3. Plantings: The building is surrounded by well-established trees, grass, and trimmed boxwood bushes.

III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: The original architectural drawings for Headquarters No. 1 have yet to be located. However, floorplans of the structure can be found in materials documenting renovations done in 1939.⁶⁰ Additional floorplan details can be seen in the ledger plans from City Point National Cemetery—which is the same standard plan structure as Headquarters No. 1.⁶¹

B. Early views: Early views of Headquarters No. 1 tend to be photographs in which the structure appears in the background rather than as the focus of the image. Most of these images can be found in Antietam National Battlefield's library collection in spiral notebooks titled "Administrative," "Administration Work," "Buildings," "Miscellaneous," and "National

⁵⁸ According to a Quarterly Report, the walkway from the Quarters 1 to the Mule Barn was added in 1932. It was three feet wide and 75 feet in length. "Quarterly Report of the Antietam National Cemetery for the period ended June 30th, 1932," File 600.912 – Antietam Nat'l Cem, Box 56, Entry 1891, RG 92, NARA II. The additional cement walkway from the parking lot was added in 1980. National Park Service, Antietam National Battlefield, "1980 Annual Report," 20, File Folder: Annual Report, 1980, Box: Annual Reports 1974-1984, Antietam National Battlefield Library, Sharpsburg, MD

⁵⁹ Photographs, "national cem – superintendents quarters, n.d.," "rear view of office building under construction," *Administrative Work* notebook, WPA photograph collection, Antietam National Battlefield Library, Sharpsburg, MD

⁶⁰ See: "Alterations and Additions to Wiring in Cemetery Lodge" (May 1939), accessible from the National Park Service's Electronic Technical Information Center online at <http://etic.nps.gov/>. Accessed August 2009.

⁶¹ Quartermaster Condition Report (13 April 1928).

Cemetery.” Dating from the 1930s, these photographs show WPA workers reconstruction the cemetery wall, maintaining the landscape, and updating the old Lodge.⁶²

C. Bibliography:

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Note: See footnotes for a more detailed listing of relevant archival materials from the National Archives, Antietam National Battlefield Library and Cultural Resources Department, as well as newspaper and periodical articles.

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Entry 576— General Correspondence and Reports Relating to National and Post Cemeteries ("Cemetery File"), 1865-1914 Box 4-6 (Antietam)

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Record Group 79 – Records of the National Park Service

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⁶² WPA photograph collection, Antietam National Battlefield Library, Sharpsburg, MD

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D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Additional research with Office of the Quartermaster General materials at the National Archives and the archival material at the Carlisle Barracks may result in locating more detailed information on the standard plan design of the structure.